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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# SafeMa

Study Visits 18-20 November 2019

Session: ICM and Human Rights. Ethics in Midwifery. Obstetric Violence



## Aim and pedagogy

**The aim** of this session is to focus on a human rights-based approach and ethics as an essential part of midwifery.

The aim of this session is furthermore to encourage reflections

- On a human rights-based approach and
- On teaching ethics in midwifery in general and
  - On how this can be transferred to your local context

**Pedagogy** in relation to the actual session is a combination of a presentation and reflections in smaller groups.

Pedagogy in relation to teaching ethics in The UCN Midwifery Programme is visualized *by* reflections in relation to deduce values from The international Code of Ethics.



# Human rights-based approach according to UN

- SafeMa is committed to following a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the development of the SafeMa program.
- UN common understanding on HBRA, in the contexts of health, emphasizes that the ultimate goal of all health policies, strategies and programs is to further advance the realization of the right to health and other health-related human rights as laid down in national and international human rights legislation.



## 3 Core elements





# Obstetric violence

- **Definition:** Obstetric violence is a term that contains the disrespectful, abusive or neglectful treatment during childbirth both in private and public facilities worldwide (WHO)
- While disrespectful and abusive treatment, both physical and psychological, of women may occur throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, research has shown that women are particularly vulnerable during childbirth.
- Such practices may have adverse consequences for both the mother and infant and may be a powerful disincentive for women to seek and use maternal health care services (WHO Statement?:1). Research show that especially adolescents, unmarried women, women from low socio-economic status, ethnic minorities, migrant women and women living with HIV are particularly likely to experience disrespectful and abusive treatment (WHO)



# International Code of Ethics (ICM)

- **ICM:** The International Confederation of Midwives is a federation of midwifery associations representing countries across the globe. The ICM works closely with the World Health Organization, all United Nations agencies, and governments in support of safe motherhood and primary health care strategies for the world's families.
- **Code of Ethics:** The code addresses the midwife's ethical mandates in keeping with the Mission, the International definition of the Midwife, and standards of ICM to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities.



# Content of lessons in Ethics in The UCN Midwifery Programme

## 1. semester (theoretical semester)

### Focus on

- Value ethics
- Ethical principles as autonomy, paternalism and integrity
- Respecting women's and their partners' autonomy

## 5. Semester (theoretical semester)

### Focus on

- Professional ethics in midwifery
  - Ethics in relation to prenatal diagnostics
  - Research ethics
- Ontological ethics
- Being with women and their partners



# Legal rights according to Danish legislation

Part of legal rights concerning Danish patients are described in the Danish Health Act, section 16, subsection 3;

”Information must be given continuously and as an understandable description of disease, clinical examination and planned treatment.

Information must be given in a careful way and must be adapted to the recipients’ individual preferences as age, maturity, experience etc.” (Own translation from the Danish Health Act, § 16, section 3)

Professional ethics must be in agreement with the Health Law



# Activity concerning International Code of Ethics for Midwives

**Background;** It has been suggested in the literature that professional codes of ethics do not contain professional values

## **An analytical approach**

From The International Code of Ethics for Midwives, please deduce professional values (e.g. anonymity, confidentiality, respect, caring, acknowledgement, integrity, responsibility, trust, equality, safety, honesty, ....)

**We will form 5 groups** (preamble and section I - IV)

Please prepare a small presentation in each group (Choose one in your group to present your results)



# Short presentation from each group

**Which values were deduced from the International Code of Ethics for Midwives?**

- Group 1; from the preamble?
- Group 2; from section I; Midwifery Relationships?
- Group 3; from section II; Practice of Midwifery?
- Group 4; from section III; The Professional Responsibilities of Midwives?
- Group 5; from section IV; Advancement of Midwifery Knowledge and Practice?



# References

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